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**SCAG, SANDAG LEADERS MEET TO COORDINATE  
KEY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL ISSUES**

**TEMECULA, CA --** Leaders representing Southern California's regional planning agencies met Thursday to discuss and coordinate efforts on a variety of common issues and priorities. Both elected officials and senior staff from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) – representing seven Southern California counties and 205 cities – discussed an assortment of issues, from growth visioning initiatives to common interregional transportation investments and border issues.

“It is important that SCAG and SANDAG remain in close coordination on a variety of issues given the inter-relationships of the transportation, land use and other planning issues facing both of our organizations,” said Mark Pisano, SCAG executive director. “I was very pleased with the exchange we had today, and we look forward to continued efforts to ensure that our respective planning efforts remain consistent and help provide for a broader vision of our collective future.”

“More and more city and county elected leaders recognize the need for interregional solutions to realistically handle pressing challenges such as traffic congestion and affordable housing, said Ron Morrison, SANDAG Chairman.”

The agencies shared information about respective regional plans, programs and projects encompassing strategic visions, transportation, regional governance, interregional partnerships, air transportation, and water availability. Of particular note was the agencies' discussions involving parallel efforts to undertake improvements on the I-15 and I-5 Freeways, which traverse through both the SCAG and SANDAG regions.

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The agencies committed to continued discussions to ensure the integrated implementation of these and other transportation improvements in their respective Regional Transportation Plans.

A number of elected leaders from the two agencies attended the meeting, including:

- ❖ Orange County Supervisor and SCAG First Vice President Charles Smith
- ❖ National City Councilmember and SANDAG Chairman Ron Morrison
- ❖ Temecula Councilmember and SCAG Second Vice President Ron Roberts
- ❖ Poway Mayor and SANDAG Vice Chairman Mickey Cafagna
- ❖ Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler
- ❖ Imperial County Supervisor Hank Kuiper
- ❖ Del Mar Councilmember Crystal Crawford
- ❖ Grand Terrace Mayor LeeAnn Garcia
- ❖ Solana Beach Councilmember Joe Kellejian
- ❖ Hemet City Councilmember Robin Lowe

The leadership from both regional agencies agreed to continue meeting on a regular basis to exchange information, coordinate planning for programs and projects, and generate ideas about topics of mutual interest, and potential funding sources. The agencies agreed to hold future coordination summits on a biannual basis, with the next meeting to occur in October 2003.

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